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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/567,468	08/31/2006	Konrad Eipper	095309.57356US	8753

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CROWELL & MORING LLP  
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EXAMINER
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MACARTHUR, VICTOR L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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02/02/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/567,468	<b>Applicant(s)</b> EIPPER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> VICTOR MACARTHUR	<b>Art Unit</b> 3679	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/2/07, 2/7/06</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                          |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 12-17, 19-25, 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mahulikar (U.S. Patent 5367196).

Claims 12 and 19. Mahulikar discloses (fig.1) A connection arrangement between two parts (metal 22 as described in col.2, ll.50-62; and metal 26 as described in col.3, ll.4-6) connected to one another in a connection zone; comprising, in the connection zone, a plastic connection including an injection-molded plastic (30 as described in col.3, ll.15-17) for connecting said two parts; and an adhesive connection including a cured adhesive (28 as described in col.3, ll.9-10) also for connecting said two parts.

Claims 13 and 22. The connection as claimed in claim 12, wherein, the adhesive connection is encased within the plastic connection.

Claims 14, and 27. The connection as claimed in claim 12, wherein at least one of the parts has, in the connection zone, at least one passage orifice (orifice in bottom corners of 26' as seen in embodiment of fig.2) filled with the plastic of the plastic connection.

Claims 15, 17, 23, 25, 28, and 30. The connection as claimed in claim 12, wherein that at least one of the parts is a metal sheet.

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Claims 16, 24 and 29. The connection as claimed in claim 12, wherein at least one of the parts has a surface coating (24) at least on one side.

Claim 20. The method as claimed in claim 19, a curing process of the adhesive is initiated thermally by the injection molding of the plastic (col.6, ll.8-22).

Claim 21. The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein, during the curing of the adhesive, the two parts are removed from an injection mold into which they were inserted for the injection molding of the plastic at least in a region of the connection zone.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 12, 18, 19, 26 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schoenfeld (US 2003/0187154) in view of Rink (U.S. Patent 5,842,265).

Schoenfeld discloses that it is old and well known in the automotive industry to adhesively join **coil-coated sheet steel** (para.0065) sheets together by disposing an adhesive therebetween. Rink teaches that it is old and well known in the automotive industry for adhesively joined sheets (col.2, ll.9-13) to also be set in a molded plastic (10) to increase joint strength. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the adhesively joined coil-coated sheet steel sheets of

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Schoenfeld to also be joined by molded plastic, as taught by Rink, for the purpose of increasing joint strength. Such combination would have clearly suggested applicant's claim limitations.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor MacArthur whose telephone number is (571) 272-7085. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197.

February 2, 2009

/Victor MacArthur/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679